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In re Application of

Application Number

239978

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United States Patent [19]

Breed et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,748,473

[43] Date of Patent: May 5, 1998

[54] AUTOMATIC VEHICLE SEAT ADJUSTER

[75] Inventors: David S. Breed, Boonton Township, N.J.; Wilbur E. DuVall, Kimberling City, Mo.

[73] Assignee: Automotive Technologies International, Inc., Denville, N.J.

[21] Appl. No.: 474,784

[22] Filed: Jun. 7, 1995

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 239,978, May 9, 1994, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 40,978, Mar. 31, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 878,571, May 5, 1992, abandoned.

[51] Int. CL⁶ B60R 21/28

[52] U.S. Cl. 364/424.055; 364/424.059;

280/735; 180/273; 297/410; 307/10.1;

[58] Field of Search 364/424.055, 424.056, 364/424.057, 424.059, 460, 461; 280/734, 735, 736; 297/403, 408, 410; 307/10.1; 340/436, 903; 180/268, 272, 273

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Primary Examiner—Gary Chin

[57]

ABSTRACT

An automatic seat adjustment system for a motor vehicle having a passenger compartment with a seat in which an occupant sits. The seat has power mechanisms for moving the seat relative to the passenger compartment from an initial position to an adjusted position, and control mechanisms connected to the power mechanisms for controlling the power mechanisms. Generally, the system includes measurement devices for measuring at least one morphological characteristic of the occupant and generating a first signal representative of the magnitude of that morphological characteristic, a processor including computational means for determining an adjusted seat position based on that measured morphological characteristic and which generates a second signal corresponding to the adjusted seat position, a first input device coupled to the measurement devices and to the processor for inputting the first signal into the processor; and a second input device coupled to the processor and the control mechanisms for inputting the second signal into the control mechanisms. In this manner, the control mechanism is able to affect the operation of the power mechanisms to move the seat to the adjusted position.

20 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

